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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF WOKING



Annual
REPORT

of the

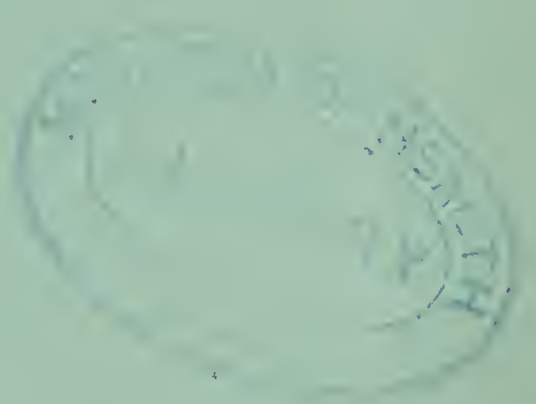
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

together with the Report of the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year

1952

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The Urban District Council of Woking

PUBLIC HEALTH AND DRAINAGE COMMITTEE

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Vice-Chairman:

COUNCILLOR H. O. M. HERBERT

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health:

N. HOOD LINZEE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Lond.)

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Officer:

A. G. DAVIES, M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspectors:

H. W. MONKS, M.S.I.A.	J. D. SMITH, M.S.I.A.
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R. A. GREEN	MISS P. M. JONES
MISS M. COTTINGHAM	

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health for 1952

*Public Health Department,
Council Offices, Guildford Road, Woking.*

25th June, 1953.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I wish to present my 26th Annual Report of Woking for the year 1952. The report has been prepared on the lines of that for 1951 in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health.

The figure of population given by the Registrar General is 50,300, an increase of 990 over the previous year, and on this figure all the vital statistics are based.

The year in question shows a drop in the number of infectious diseases notified, viz. 644 as against 842 in 1951. It will be noted that there were two cases of poliomyelitis as compared with one in 1951 and that no case of food poisoning was recorded.

The number of live births was 719 giving a birth rate of 14·58 as compared with 689 live births and a birth rate of 14·25 in 1951.

Deaths amounted to 554 with a rate of 10·46 as compared with 501 and a death rate of 9·65 in 1951.

The Infantile Mortality Rate for 1952 was 26·42 as compared with 22·99 for the previous year. The natural increment is 165.

The total number of houses completed in 1952 was 969, including 202 erected by the Local Authority, 67 by private enterprise and 700 on Sheerwater Estate. In addition 34 existing houses were converted providing 30 new family units.

I am indebted once more to all members of the staff for maintaining a high standard of efficiency in carrying out the varied functions of the Department.

N. HOOD LINZEE,
Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (acres), 15,712.

Estimate of Resident Population, Mid-year 1952, 50,300.

Year	Houses	Population	Average No. per House
1891	1,584	9,776	6·2
1901	2,807	16,222	5·8
1911	4,072	24,808	6·0
1921	5,078	26,430	5·8
1931	6,853	29,950	4·4
1941	10,743	47,770	4·4
1951	11,949	49,310	4·1

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1952) according to rate books, 12,899.

Rateable Value, £505,743.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £2,022.

Social Conditions

Woking is a residential town situated within 25 miles of London and consequently a very high proportion of the residents find employment in London.

A total of 1,947 acres comprises common and open spaces and there are many recreation grounds to provide open air facilities for the children and adults. In the 34-acre Woking Park there is in addition to normal activities an open-air swimming pool.

During the year 5,216 men and 1,277 women took advantage of the available facilities at the slipper baths.

Unemployment amongst Woking residents was about the average figure for the post-war years.

Classification	Dec. 31st 1948	Dec. 31st 1949	Dec. 31st 1950	Dec. 31st 1951	Dec. 31st 1952
Male Adults ..	123	96	147	39	96
Male Juveniles ..	17	13	10	2	4
Female Adults ..	60	44	55	40	58
Female Juveniles ..	16	13	34	2	3
Totals	216	166	246	83	161

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year 1952

Live Births:—				Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	..	..	..	682	348	334
Illegitimate	..	..	..	37	19	18
				Birth Rate, 14·58		
Still-births	..	..	..	12	7	5
				Rate per 1,000 total births, 16·42		
Deaths	..	..	..	554	258	296
				Death Rate, 10·46		

The crude birth and death rates for Woking are, strictly speaking, not comparable with the figures for England and Wales. In order to arrive at correct figures the Registrar General has introduced comparability factors. These factors for Woking are 1·02 and ·95 for births and deaths respectively, and the above figures have been adjusted accordingly.

Deaths from puerperal causes:—	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	1·37

Death rate of infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	26·42
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ..	24·93
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ..	5·40
Deaths from malignant neoplasms (all ages)	101
Deaths from measles (all ages)	—
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	—
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	—

Births

The following table shows the number of live births and the birth rate over the past 10 years.

Year	Number of Births	Birth Rate	Birth Rate for England and Wales
1943	812	18·58	16·5
1944	807	18·76	17·6
1945	735	17·49	16·1
1946	887	20·59	19·1
1947	865	19·61	20·5
1948	727	15·83	17·9
1949	687	14·89	16·7
1950	673	14·11	15·8
1951	689	14·25	15·5
1952	719	14·58	15·3

It is of interest to note that the actual number of births which occurred in the Woking U.D. during 1952 was 1,432, although only 719 were credited to Woking. The remainder (being born to women not normally resident in Woking) were transferred to other Districts.

The birth rate has exceeded the death rate for the past 10 years, the natural increment for this year being 165.

The statistics supplied by the Registrar-General during 1952 show that the total number of registered live births allocated to Woking was 719—367 males and 352 females, the birth rate being 14·58 per 1,000 of the population. Of the total number of births 682 were legitimate and 37 (5·15 per cent) illegitimate.

In addition there were 12 still births, 7 male and 5 female.

Causes of Death during 1952							Male	Female
All causes .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	258	296
Tuberculosis, respiratory ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	3
Tuberculosis, other ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	—
Syphilitic disease ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
Whooping cough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
Diphtheria ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
Meningococcal infections ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
Measles ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	9
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	32	34
Leukaemia, aleukaemia ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	—
Diabetes ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	33	44
Coronary disease, angina ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	42	29
Hypertension with heart disease ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	5
Other heart disease ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	29	63
Other circulatory diseases ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	18
Influenza ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2
Pneumonia ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	18
Bronchitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	16
Other diseases of respiratory system ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	4
Hyperplasia of prostate ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	1
Congenital malformations ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19	25
Motor vehicle accidents ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	2
All other accidents ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	6
Suicide ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2

Deaths

The total number of deaths registered in the district was 554—258 males and 296 females, equal to a death rate of 10·46 per thousand of the estimated population.

The deaths occurring outside the district of people really belonging to Woking were 158.

The following deaths occurred in Institutions outside the Woking district of people usually resident in Woking:

St. Luke's Hospital, Guildford	..	..	11
St. Peter's Hospital, Chertsey	..	..	85
Sanatoria	..	..	3
London Hospitals	..	..	12
Other Hospitals and Institutions	..	..	31

There were 244 deaths within this district of persons not usually resident in Woking, 97 males and 147 females. Of these 74 males and 90 females died at Brookwood Mental Hospital.

Death Rate for the Past Ten Years

Year	Woking Urban District	England and Wales
1943	10·05	12·1
1944	10·86	11·6
1945	10·80	11·4
1946	10·63	11·5
1947	10·47	12·0
1948	10·58	10·8
1949	9·73	11·7
1950	10·23	11·6
1951	9·65	12·5
1952	10·46	11·3

The principal causes of death, excluding those from zymotic diseases, are:—

Malignant neoplasms	101	
Heart disease	174	} 280
Vascular lesions of nervous system	..	..	..	..	77
Other circulatory diseases	29	} 61
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	31
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	27
Other respiratory diseases	..	..	..	..	3

Malignant Neoplasms

Malignant and lymphatic neoplasms were responsible for 101 deaths or 18·23 per cent of total deaths.

Deaths from Malignant Neoplasms

Year	Total Deaths	Deaths from Malignant Neoplasms	Percentage
1943	439	81	18·45
1944	467	77	16·49
1945	454	67	14·76
1946	458	68	14·85
1947	462	62	13·42
1948	486	93	19·14
1949	488	77	15·77
1950	524	100	19·08
1951	501	83	16·56
1952	554	101	18·23

Diseases of the Heart and Circulation

There were 280 deaths due to Heart and Circulation. This figure represents 50·54 per cent of the whole deaths.

Deaths from Heart Disease

Year	Total Deaths	Heart Disease Deaths	Percentage
1943	439	155	35·31
1944	467	172	35·03
1945	454	174	38·33
1946	458	211	46·07
1947	462	205	44·37
1948	486	230	47·32
1949	488	237	48·56
1950	524	239	45·61
1951	501	271	54·09
1952	554	280	50·54

Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and other Respiratory Diseases

There were 31 deaths due to Pneumonia, 27 to Bronchitis, and 3 to other respiratory diseases. This gives a total of 61 or 11·01 per cent of total deaths.

Year	Total Deaths	Bronchitis, etc., Deaths	Percentage
1943	439	51	11·62
1944	467	54	11·56
1945	454	59	12·99
1946	458	47	10·26
1947	462	57	12·34
1948	486	40	8·23
1949	488	42	8·61
1950	524	53	10·11
1951	501	42	8·38
1952	554	61	11·01

It may be recalled that towards the end of the year the whole of England was blanketed by thick, dense fog which affected chiefly the elderly people, with a resultant increase of deaths from respiratory and circulatory diseases.

Deaths due to Violence

The figures given below indicate the manner in which Woking residents met their deaths from violence.

Road Traffic deaths	..	7	Drowning	3	
Falls	6	Other causes	4

In addition to the above there were 3 suicides.

Infantile Mortality

There were 19 infant deaths during the year (including transferable deaths) giving an Infant Mortality rate of 26·42 per 1,000 live births. The Infantile Death rate for illegitimate children in Woking was 5·40 per 1,000 illegitimate live births.

Infant Mortality Rate for the Past Ten Years

Year	Deaths Under 1 year	Infant Mortality Rate
1943	30	36·95
1944	35	43·37
1945	23	31·29
1946	24	27·06
1947	26	30·06
1948	19	26·13
1949	17	24·74
1950	15	22·29
1951	16	22·99
1952	19	26·42

Year	No. of Deaths under 1 year	No. of Deaths under 2 years due to Diarrhoea and Enteritis	No. of live Births
1943	30	—	812
1944	35	4	807
1945	23	1	735
1946	24	—	887
1947	26	4	865
1948	19	1	727
1949	17	—	687
1950	15	—	673
1951	16	—	689
1952	19	—	719

The following tables show the causes of death and ages at death of infants under 1 year.

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total No. under 1 month
Prematurity	8	—	—	—	8
Atelectasis	1	—	—	—	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	2	—	—	—	2
Broncho Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	1
Congenital Heart Disease	—	1	—	—	1

Cause of Death	1-3 months	4-6 months	7-9 months	10-12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Broncho Pneumonia	—	—	2	—	2
Congenital Heart Disease	1	—	—	—	1
Bronchitis	—	1	—	1	2
Pneumonia	—	—	—	1	1

Year 1952

	Rate per 1,000 of population		Annual Death Rate per 1,000 population									Rate per 1,000 live births	
	Live births	Still births	All causes	Typhoid Fever	Small-pox	Ac. Poliomyelitis and Polio-enceph.	Pneumonia	Tuberculosis	Whooping cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Infants under 1 year	Infants under 2 years
England and Wales ..	15.3	0.35	11.3	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.47	0.24	0.00	0.00	0.04	27.6	1.1
160 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ..	16.9	0.43	12.1	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.52	0.28	0.00	0.00	0.04	31.2	1.3
160 Smaller Towns (Resident populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1951 Census) ..	15.5	0.36	11.2	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.43	0.22	0.00	0.00	0.04	25.8	0.5
London Administrative County ..	17.6	0.34	12.6	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.58	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.05	23.8	0.7
WOKING URBAN DISTRICT (Population 50,300) ..	14.58	0.24	10.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.62	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.08	26.42	0.00

The Vital Statistics for Woking as shown above compare very favourably with those for England and Wales and other Smaller Towns.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

(a) Laboratory Facilities

Clinical material (sputum, swabs, etc.) in the ordinary course of events is sent to various available laboratories for examination.

Samples of milk, water, and ice-cream for bacteriological examination are sent to The Public Health Laboratories, Epsom.

Samples of water for chemical examination are sent to the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene, London.

	1951	1952
Number of swabs examined for diphtheria ..	—	—
Number of swabs examined for scarlet fever ..	25	5
Number of swabs examined for miscellaneous	23	7
Number of samples of milk taken for analysis	124	137
Number of samples of ice cream taken for analysis	101	113
Number of samples of water taken for analysis	58	66

(b) Ambulance Facilities

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Ambulance Service is administered by the Surrey County Council.

Ambulances are supplied from:—

Sharrard House, Heathside Road, Woking (Tel. Woking 3040), which is operated directly by the County Council.

The following additional facilities are still available:—

(a) British Red Cross Society, Ambulance Station, Boundary Road, Woking (Tel. Woking 2369), for accident and removal of cases to and from hospitals.

(b) Isolation Hospital, Ottershaw (Tel. Ottershaw 327), used for removal of cases of infectious disease to and from the hospital.

(c) Nursing in the Home

County Council Health Visitors undertake home visits required under the various schemes of the Surrey County Council, including Ante-Natal and Post-Natal supervision.

District Nurses/Domiciliary Midwives are provided by the Surrey County Council for the whole of the Urban District. During 1952 the number of cases attended was 1,806 (31,934 visits).

(d) Hospitals

There have been no changes or developments with regard to the hospital facilities in the district. They are as follows:—

Woking and District Victoria Hospital.

Clinic for the treatment of Tuberculosis at Woking Dispensary, Clarence Avenue, Woking.

The Clinics for the treatment of Venereal Diseases situated at Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford, and Woking Victoria Hospital.

Mental cases are received at the Mental Hospital, Brookwood.

National Assistance Act, 1948

No cases were reported to the Department during the year, and no action was deemed necessary under Section 47 of this Act.

Ottershaw Isolation Hospital

The following table shows the number of cases admitted to the Isolation Hospital during 1952:—

Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	6 cases
Erysipelas	..	..	..	1 „
Measles	..	..	..	4 „
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	5 „
Chicken Pox	..	..	..	1 „
Gastro-enteritis	..	..	..	2 „
Other Diseases	..	..	..	14 „
				—
Total	..	..	..	33 cases
				==

MATERNITY

Ante-natal and Post-natal Welfare

The excellent Maternity Hospital in Heathside Road continued its invaluable service. 54 beds are kept, and during 1952, 1,430 patients were admitted as compared with 1,295 in 1951. 612 patients were admitted from Woking Urban District. Of the total, 1,006 were delivered by midwives, and 240 by doctors, the average duration of stay being 11·49 days. 226 operations were carried out. 67 Puerperal Pyrexia cases occurred, 29 being in persons admitted from Woking.

Midwives.—The Hospital is an approved training school for midwives, and 47 nurses were trained and passed the Examinations of the Central Midwives' Board during the year.

Clinics.—Ante-natal clinics are held every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings and afternoons. Post-natal clinics are held every Monday morning. County Council clinics are held every Wednesday afternoon and Friday morning and on the morning and afternoon of the 2nd Monday of each month. Baby clinics are held every Monday and Friday afternoon. Fertility clinics are held every Wednesday morning.

Attendances:—

Ante-natal Clinic	5,409
Baby Clinic	2,840
For examination by Specialist ..	822

OTHER.—The Woking and District Victoria Hospital admitted 1,906 in-patients. Other attendances were as follows:—

Number of Out-patient attendances ..	15,899
Casualty attendances	13,684
Physiotherapy attendances	21,325
Number of X-ray cases	8,267
and “A.P. Screenings”	2,683

WATER SUPPLY

As described in previous Reports, the water is supplied by the Woking and District Water Company from its stations at Chertsey, West Horsley, West Clandon, and a supply in bulk by statute from the Guildford Corporation. The West Surrey Water Company supplies the Byfleet area.

The Woking and District Water Company's mains were extended 2,855 yards in the Urban District during 1952, and those of the West Surrey Water Co. by 3,828 yards.

With few exceptions water is laid on to the interior of the houses.

2 samples of Company water were taken and found to be satisfactory bacteriologically.

Wells.—Twenty-two houses are still dependent on shallow wells, numbering 18, for their water supply. Samples of these waters are taken regularly to check their purity. Some of these houses are too remote to make main supply practicable. 32 samples of these waters were taken during the year, 11 of which proved to be satisfactory. The remaining 21 were found to be unsatisfactory and the appropriate action was taken in each case.

Infectious Diseases, 1952

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT												WARDS										Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths		
	At all Ages	At Ages—Years											Byfleet	Chertsey Road	Goldsworth	Horsell North	Horsell South	Knaphill and Brookwood	Maybury and Mount Hermon	Pyrford	St. John's	Sutton and Bridley			Woking Village and Mayford	
		Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65														65 and over
Whooping Cough	125	9	7	18	20	17	51	3	—	—	—	—	—	7	11	7	12	4	27	1	9	9	38	5	—	
Scarlet Fever	27	—	1	1	1	2	17	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	6	1	—	2	—	—	12	6	—	
Measles	257	1	14	16	30	20	161	9	2	1	3	—	—	4	7	1	14	106	10	14	56	9	29	4	—	
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Pneumonia	19	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	1	—	3	5	6	1	2	2	1	—	—	3	—	2	8	3	31	
Puerperal Pyrexia	68	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	23	38	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	66	—	—	—	—	66	—	
Acute Poliomyelitis	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	
Meningococcal Infections	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	
Erysipelas	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	12	—	
Dysentery	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Typhoid and Para-Typhoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Tuberculosis:—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Non-Pulmonary	6	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	1	—	1	—	1	2	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	4	1	
Pulmonary	120	—	1	—	1	1	5	3	7	16	60	20	6	14	8	4	27	9	4	33	4	1	12	27	8	
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	
Acute Encephalitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	

Scarlet Fever.—There were 27 cases, 4 more than in the previous year, and 6 of these were sent to the Isolation Hospital. 17 of the cases occurred in the 5–10 age group. Once again there were no deaths during the year and it does seem that the severity of Scarlet Fever has lessened considerably in the last few years.

Diphtheria.—There were no cases notified during the year and it seems that this disease has now been well controlled by immunisation.

Measles.—The 257 notified cases were not quite half of the total of the previous year. 4 of these cases were admitted to hospital. There were no deaths during the year.

Whooping Cough.—125 cases occurred, 5 of which were admitted to hospital.

Typhoid Fever.—There were no cases during the year.

Dysentery.—13 cases occurred, 12 being in Brookwood Hospital. During the year there were no deaths.

Poliomyelitis.—There were 2 cases, both of the paralytic type, and both were admitted to hospital. In each case there was some degree of disablement.

Meningococcal Infection.—The 2 cases which occurred recovered from the disease after admission to hospital.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—1 case was notified during the year.

Smallpox.—No cases of Smallpox occurred during the year. Frequently contacts of cases occurring on board ship from the East arrive in this District; each case requires visiting and observation.

Pneumonia.—During the past year 19 cases of Pneumonia were notified, and 31 deaths were recorded.

Enteric Fever.—No cases notified.

Encephalitis Lethargica.—There were no cases notified.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1952.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-15	4	4	4	—	—	—	—	—
15-25	11	12	—	1	—	—	—	—
25-35	19	26	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-45	10	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55	13	3	1	—	3	1	—	—
55-65	1	3	—	—	1	1	—	—
65 and upwards	3	3	—	—	1	1	1	—
Totals ..	64	56	5	1	5	3	1	—

The number of cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year ending 31st December was 126, as will be seen from the following table:—

Number notified by General Practitioners	9
Number notified by Institutions and Clinics	38
Number transferred to Woking	74
Number notified after death	5

The following table shows the number of cases notified annually since 1943, and the number of deaths which occurred:—

YEAR	NUMBER ON REGISTER				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1943	92	97	38	54	10	6	1	4
1944	106	105	43	59	12	8	1	3
1945	109	106	40	48	12	5	1	1
1946	128	114	41	48	9	6	1	1
1947	156	107	41	48	5	6	1	1
1948	157	111	38	46	8	4	—	—
1949	183	109	37	47	7	4	2	—
1950	185	118	37	48	13	5	2	2
1951	193	124	36	44	2	1	1	1
1952	229	155	38	41	5	3	1	—

The increased number of cases of tuberculosis on the register is largely due to the number of cases living in the new houses on the

Sheerwater Estate—the number of houses built by the L.C.C. on this estate in 1952 was 660, in which 56 tuberculous patients were accommodated.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925

No action was necessary under these Regulations regarding tuberculous employees in the milk trade.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, SEC. 172

No action was needed for the compulsory removal to Hospital of infectious persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis whose lodging or accommodation prevented the adoption of proper precautions to prevent the spread of infection or who were not taking such precautions.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

No action was taken under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, the matter being in the hands of the Surrey County Council.

SCHOOLS

Most of the Schools are of modern construction and all have water-closets drained to the sewers.

There is close co-operation with the School Medical Service of the Surrey County Council. The Regulations with respect to exclusion from school of infectious cases and contacts are strictly observed. The Head Teachers of the schools notify the Medical Officer of Health of absences from school of children suffering from any disease or ailment.

SWIMMING POOLS

The Swimming Pool opened in 1935 in the Woking Park continues in popularity with residents and visitors. Its modern filtration, aeration and chlorination plant provides a complete turnover of the 425,000 gallons it contains every 5 hours, and the water is tested for alkalinity and acidity twice daily. Bacteriological examination of the water was regularly carried out, 28 samples being submitted. These all proved to be satisfactory. During 1952, the number of admissions were 95,903 as against 73,563 for the year previous.

There are no privately-owned Swimming Pools open to the public in the district.

1st June, 1953.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee

MR. CHAIRMAN, MISS GRAVES AND GENTLEMEN,

This report represents the efforts of a very small staff in their own field of endeavours on the public health front. Of necessity much remains undone, but at least there have been many useful achievements in addition to the large volume of routine work.

So much has been said and written concerning housing and the vexed question of repairs on unfit houses that there is little more to add. Indications are that the Government may tackle the problem and endeavour to provide a solution as satisfactory as possible. It is to be hoped that the immense experience of the Sanitary Inspector will be taken into account and utilised in whatever scheme may be adopted.

No full and up-to-date picture is available of housing needs and circumstances and a full-scale housing survey is rapidly becoming a national necessity. Requests are frequently received for figures concerning numbers of unfit houses, but they can be supplied only on estimate from the experience of the Sanitary Inspector and not from recently ascertained survey information. Such a survey involves staff; staff needs money, and so the claims of housing survey against financial economy may have to be matched.

To those Sanitary Inspectors who have contributed in full measure to the story contained in these pages I offer my grateful thanks, also to the Councillors of Woking, whose sympathetic consideration of all our problems helps materially in facilitating progress.

Yours faithfully,

A. G. DAVIES,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY INSPECTION

The following table is here included in accordance with the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, and is a summary of the inspections made during the year.

(a) Number and Nature of Inspections for 1952:—

Inspections under Housing Act, 1936	..	..	..	50
Inspections of dwellings under Public Health Acts	..			895
Inspections of dwellings occupied by applicants for				
Council Houses	..	..	..	111
Enquiries <i>re</i> infectious diseases	..	..	..	144
Inspections of verminous premises	..	..	..	7
Investigations <i>re</i> overcrowding	..	..	..	16
Visits to slaughterhouses	..	..	..	74
Visits to places of entertainment	..	..	..	6
Inspection of dairies	..	..	..	112
,, ,, bakehouses	..	..	..	83
,, ,, movable dwellings	..	..	..	440
,, ,, factories	..	..	..	243
,, ,, workplaces	..	..	..	61
,, ,, kitchens, shops	..	..	..	205
,, ,, other food premises	..	..	..	597
,, ,, factory canteens	..	..	..	58
,, ,, licensed houses and hotels	..	..	..	47
,, ,, school sanitation	..	..	..	31
,, ,, premises where ice cream is manufactured,				
stored or sold	..	..	..	79
,, ,, drains	..	..	..	18
Inspections concerning smoke nuisance	..	..	..	19
,, ,, Rag Flock Act, 1951	..	..	..	11
,, ,, Shops Act, 1950 (Section 38)	..			40
,, ,, rodent infestation (by Sanitary				
Inspectors)	..	..	..	81
Attendance at exhumations	..	..	..	11
Pet Animals Act	..	..	..	2
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	287
				<hr/>
Inspections				3,728
Re-inspections				3,301
				<hr/>
				7,029
				<hr/> <hr/>

(b) Notices served:—

Number of Preliminary Notices served during the year ..	331
Number of Statutory Notices served	51
1. Under Public Health Act, 1936, Sec. 75	—
2. Under Public Health Act, 1936, Sec. 93	51
3. Under Housing Act, 1936, Sec. 9	—

Improvements have been effected by the Sanitary Inspectors as follows:—

Rooms cleansed	73
Wall plaster renewed or repaired	124
Ceiling plaster renewed or repaired	77
Floors repaired	151
Sub-floor space ventilated	4
Doors repaired or provided	15
Window sashes and frames repaired or provided	38
Staircases and stairs renewed or repaired	3
Stoves and grates renewed or repaired	47
Coppers or parts thereof renewed or repaired	3
Sinks renewed or repaired	10
Sink wastepipes renewed	9
Sills, steps, lintels, arches renewed or repaired	4
Pail and water closets repaired	30
Pail closets abolished	2
New W.C.s provided	5
Houses connected to sewer	4
R.W.P.s provided or repaired	18
Chimney stacks repaired	19
Drainage repaired, including soilpipes	36
Yard paving repaired	2
Sanitary dustbins provided	14
Eavesgutters provided or repaired	75
Roofs repaired	133
Pointings renewed	14
Brickwork renewed	4
Damp proof course renewed	2
Dampness remedied in other ways	64
Wholesome supply of water provided	4
Defects remedied at:	
Dairies and Milkshops	1
Meat and Food premises	25
Factories	24
Bakehouses	13

Samples of milk taken for analysis	..	..	..	137
Samples of water taken for analysis	..	..	..	66
Churn and milk bottle rinses	..	..	..	48
Samples of ice cream taken for analysis	..	..	..	113
Verminous rooms fumigated, etc.	..	..	..	29
Rooms disinfected after cases of disease	..	..	..	32

HOUSING

I.—*Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the Year.*

- (1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) and the number of inspections made 845
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 50
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 4
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .. 671

The following paragraph details the dwelling-houses referred to in I (3) above and lists the action taken by the Public Health Committee.

No. of houses unfit for habitation	Address	Reported to Committee	Action taken
3	1, 2 and 3, Oakdale Cottages, College Lane.	3rd March, 1952	Proposals by owner for re-conditioning accepted.
1	205, Goldsworth Road.	31st March, 1952	Proposals by owner for re-conditioning accepted.

II.—*Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notice.*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 542

III.—*Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.*

(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- | | |
|---|----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | — |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices during 1951:— | |
| (a) By owners | 29 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners .. | — |

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

- | | |
|--|----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 51 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:— | |
| (a) By owners | 22 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners .. | — |

(C) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- | | |
|---|---|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | — |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished by owner without recourse to Demolition Orders | 4 |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served of Time and Place at which the question of making a Demolition Order would be considered (Section II (1)) | — |
| (4) Number of undertakings to carry out works accepted .. | 4 |
| (5) Number of houses rendered fit | — |
| (6) Undertakings cancelled—the works having been carried out | — |

(D) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- | | |
|--|---|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made | — |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit .. | — |

IV.—*Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding.*

(a) (1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	8
(2)	Number of families dwelling therein	14
(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein	37
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	4
(c) (1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year through re-housing by the Council	33
(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	211
(d)	Cases in which dwelling-houses became overcrowded after steps were taken for the abatement of overcrowding	—

FACTORY INSPECTION

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	23	26	3	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	207	217	10	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ..	—	—	—	—
Total	230	243	13	—

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	4	—	1	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	1	1	—	1	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—					
(a) Insufficient ..	3	3	—	2	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	16	16	—	10	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	24	24	—	14	—

MOVABLE DWELLINGS

Number of licensed sites used for parking 2 or more caravans	4
Number of caravans on each site:	
Warren Farm, Pyrford	93
(46 for week-end use only)	
Slapleys, Egley Road	8
Brewery Lane, Byfleet	6
Vinery Nurseries, Byfleet	5
Licences issued during the year under Public Health Act, 1936, Sec. 269	4
Number of licences renewed	37

Careful comparison of this section of my report with those of the last five years will give an indication of the growth of the caravan problem. A single caravan suitably sited appears harmless enough, but

the steady increase in the total numbers involved suggests a very serious problem when as a result of a change in housing circumstances the Council wish to clear the district of this form of habitation.

From the viewpoint of the intending caravan applicant the dual permission required of both public health and town planning provokes confusion, especially where one application is successful and the other not. Councillors also are confused, and justifiably so, at being asked to consider granting applications for public health licences and yet being informed that subject to satisfactory water supply and sanitary accommodation there is virtually no ground for refusal. I believe the Ministry of Housing and Local Government has considered these matters.

An amendment of law to give both better control of movable dwellings and remove confusion of thought is an urgent need. In future legislation amendment will most probably strengthen the control of the Planning Authority, but I do feel that the whole question of caravan administration would be simplified if control was in the hands of the Local Authority.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

During the year 18 houses, including 1 council house, were found to be infested to varying degrees with bed bugs. The method of disinfection usually employed is spraying with D.D.T. compounds.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Each year a number of complaints are received as to nuisance from smoke and grit, the emphasis usually being on the latter. Factory owners are very much alive to this problem and in nearly all cases are keen to avoid nuisance. Investigations normally resolve into fuel or stoking problems, the latter being a difficult issue owing to the low grade of fuel which appears to be available. The assistance of the Ministry of Fuel and Power on this question is gratefully acknowledged.

SHOPS AND OFFICES

Since the passing of the Public Health Act, 1936, a statutory obligation has existed in relation to the inspection of offices and so far as circumstances permit, this is done. Generally speaking the standard of office accommodation in Woking is good.

Inspections under the Shops Act, 1950, are carried out. The need for consolidated legislation and 100 per cent inspection control by the Sanitary Inspector, as envisaged in the Gowers Report, is obvious.

RAG, FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

There are at present within the urban district no premises requiring registration within the terms of the above Act. Notwithstanding, all premises are inspected where upholstery work is executed from time to time.

DISINFECTION

(a) During the year disinfection was carried out at 32 premises in which infectious diseases occurred.

Disinfection was also carried out at 4 other premises on request, the occupier in each case making payment towards the cost.

(b) A number of articles of clothing have been disinfected and some bedding destroyed upon request.

(c) No. of rooms disinfected	..	..	..	..	..	32
No. of library books disinfected	..	..	..	..	..	53

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

No special food hygiene campaign was undertaken, but inspections continued to be made very diligently.

Apart from a bakehouse which fell much below standard the general situation remained on a satisfactory level.

School canteens both county and private were inspected in detail.

The canteens were found to fall into two groups, (a) those in which the meals are prepared and served on the premises and (b) those where meals are received in insulated containers from central kitchens and only served on the premises. In the case of the latter, inspection was of course limited to the dining-rooms, methods of serving and arrangements for washing up.

The standard of hygiene was found to be generally high and this, in my opinion, was largely due to competent supervision and the good type of personnel employed. In some instances kitchens were found to be small in relation to the number of meals prepared daily, but in these cases I was satisfied that a good job was being done in spite of the limited accommodation.

In addition to carrying out an inspection the subject of food poisoning was discussed with the respective supervisors in the canteens and a general awareness of the factors involved was found to exist. Every canteen kitchen was found to have been recently provided with a refrigerator and the use of such equipment in the control of food poisoning was fully understood.

MILK SUPPLY

The following is an analysis of milk registration within the urban district.

Distributors of milk residing in the district	8
Distributors of milk residing outside the district but retailing in the district	9
Premises registered (used as Dairies)	7

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk)
Regulations, 1949.

Dealers' licences to sell designated milk were granted as follows:—

Pasteurised milk	5
Pasteurised milk (supplementary)	6
Tuberculin tested milk	6
Tuberculin tested milk (supplementary)	7
Sterilised milk	4
Sterilised milk (supplementary)	2

137 samples of milk were taken during the year and submitted to the following tests:—

	Phosphatase test	Methylene blue test	Turbidity test	Biological test
Pasteurised	120	120	—	—
Sterilised	—	—	3	—
T.T. farm bottled	—	1	—	} 9
T.T. Pasteurised	—	1	—	
Raw milk	—	1	—	

Two pasteurised samples failed to pass the methylene blue test, otherwise all samples passed the prescribed tests—an exceedingly good record.

The phosphatase test indicates that pasteurisation has been properly carried out; the methylene blue test is used to determine cleanliness and keeping quality, the turbidity test is a check on sterilisation and the biological tests are for the purpose of detecting tubercle bacilli. Health officials in the County of Surrey endeavour to co-operate in providing throughout the County an adequate system of biological sampling, most of which occurs at the place of production, hence the low number of samples in Woking for this purpose.

Human intelligence has so far failed to provide a milk bottle-washing organisation guaranteed to ensure only the use of properly cleansed bottles. Perhaps the answer lies in the complete elimination of the use

of bottles in favour of waxed cartons or any form of container to be used once only. 14 instances of bottles either dirty or containing extraneous oddments such as foil bottle caps have been brought to our notice during the year. The incidents have come to light chiefly in schools; perhaps the incident rate is no higher in schools, but the child/schoolmaster combination is probably more enthusiastic than the housewife in reporting to the authorities.

On the 29th March one dairyman was convicted and fined a total of £20 in respect of 3 such offences and ordered to pay £8 costs.

On the side of the school authorities there is also room for improvement. It is noticed very frequently that the school bottles are returned unrinsed and in nothing like the clean condition which might so easily be achieved. Co-operation in this direction would be of help to the dairyman and is not a great deal to ask.

All of the unsatisfactory milk bottle rinses referred to elsewhere in the report arose from one source, namely the premises of a dairyman who for a long period refused to co-operate or accept the advice of the Sanitary Inspector. I am pleased to report that the arrangements in the dairy concerned have been improved sufficiently to provide permanently satisfactory results in the bottle-washing arrangements.

ICE CREAM

There are 119 premises registered for the sale of ice cream and at 2 of these the product is occasionally manufactured on the premises. Both manufacturers produce the complete cold mix only, although one has plant and equipment suitable for carrying out heat treatment in accordance with the regulations.

Prepacked ice cream continues to represent the major portion of the total amount retailed in the area and most of this, being supplied by large manufacturers employing the latest modern hygienic methods, is of a high standard of purity. The results of ice cream sampling showed an improvement over the previous year and the reduction in the number of samples placed in Grades III and IV is undoubtedly due to increased care taken by retailers in handling bulk ice cream, in accordance with advice given to them. The contribution of the larger manufacturers in this respect cannot be overlooked.

113 samples of ice cream were obtained during the year, the results of which were as follows:—

Grade I	..	..	..	..	84 samples
Grade II	..	..	..	..	17 samples
Grade III	..	..	..	..	8 samples
Grade IV	..	..	..	..	4 samples

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Total amount of unsound food surrendered during the year was 1 ton 14 cwt. 2 qr. 16³/₄ lb., together with 22 fishcakes and 257 tins of milk, and was made up as follows:—

	T.	C.	Q.	lb.
Tinned Meat	—	8	0	7 ¹ / ₂
Tinned Fish	—	1	0	2 ¹ / ₂
Tinned Vegetables	—	3	1	10 ¹ / ₂
Tinned Fruit	—	7	1	0 ¹ / ₂
Tinned Soup	—	—	—	27 ¹ / ₄
Meat	—	4	3	8 ¹ / ₂
Fish	—	1	0	14
Bacon	—	—	—	8
Cheese	—	—	—	16
Preserves	—	—	3	15 ¹ / ₄
Cereals	—	—	—	18
Sponge Pudding Mixture	—	2	1	22 ¹ / ₂
Desiccated Coconut	—	—	—	22
Prunes	—	2	3	18 ³ / ₄
Dried Peaches	—	—	1	22
Gravy Powder	—	—	1	17
Pork Sausages	—	1	0	4
Icing Sugar	—	—	—	3 ¹ / ₂
Miscellaneous	—	—	—	3

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	—	—	9	7	162
Number inspected	—	—	9	7	162
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis—</i>					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	2	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis	—	—	—	28·6	—
<i>Tuberculosis only—</i>					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	1·2

There are 4 licensed private slaughterhouses in the district.

ADULTERATION OF FOOD

The administration of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, is carried out by the Surrey County Council, who have kindly supplied the following list of samples taken during the year in the Woking district.

Articles	Analysed			Adulterated or Irregular			Prosecutions	Convictions
	Formal	In-formal	Total	Formal	In-formal	Total		
<i>Food:</i>								
Milk	48	3	51	7	1	8	—	—
Almond essence..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Almond substitute (ground) ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Butter	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Cake	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Fish cakes ..	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Ice cream ..	6	—	6	1	—	1	—	—
Jelly	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	—
Marzipan ..	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Mincemeat ..	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Raspberries in syrup	1	—	1	1*	—	1	—	—
Sausages ..	2	—	2	1	—	1	—	—
Sherbet	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Tiger nuts ..	—	1	1	—	1*	1	—	—
<i>Drugs:</i>								
Peppermint tablets	3	—	3	1	—	1	—	—
Vitamin supplements	1	2	3	—	1	1	—	—
Totals	72	7	79	12	3	15	—	—

* Labelling offence

BURIAL OF THE DEAD

No action was taken during the year under Section 50 of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

RODENT AND PEST CONTROL

Two experienced operators are employed and Morris 8 vans are provided for transport and for the carriage of equipment. Up-to-date methods are used both in the destruction of rats and mice and also for fumigation and disinfestation generally.

During the year 304 complaints were investigated. In addition, contract work was performed by routine on 61 premises for which payment is received and on 14 Council properties. Sewer treatments were carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Agriculture.

WATER SUPPLY

The undermentioned houses, numbering 22 in all, obtain their supplies of drinking water from shallow wells.

						Number of	
						Houses	Wells
Warren Farm, Pyrford	..	..	..	..	..	*1	1
The Boxes, Sutton	..	..	..	..	..	2	1
Trigg's Lock, Sutton	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Golf Course Cottage (Hook Heath)		..	..	..	..	1	1
Fishers Farm, Lower Westfield	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Holly Cottage, Pyrford Green	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Boundary Cottage, Bagshot Road, Knaphill	..	..			..	1	1
Lawfords Cottages, Worplesdon	..	..	..	..	..	2	1
Holly Bank, The Ramblers, Redcroft	}	Prey Heath		..	..	6	4
1-2, Glencoe, Fullers							
Range View, Hazel Hurst	}	Cowshott					
Chantry, Hazel Cottage							
Water Lane Farm, York Cottage				..	..	6	6
						22	18

* The well at Warren Farm also serves the caravan site.

In 1945, 34 houses were without a main supply, but constant effort in the face of much practical difficulty has secured a steady reduction in this number. During 1951 the Council was successful in three instances, whilst in 1952 two houses were re-connected, four houses were provided with a main supply, two houses were removed from the list through demolition, and negotiations for a main supply reached a hopeful stage in the case of Warren Farm, Pyrford.

In 1911 about 240 houses in the urban district were supplied from wells, and despite two world wars and the difficulties of post-war eras, the total has been reduced steadily to 22. Of the small number still existing, all are a country cottage type of dwelling of a kind still to be found in all parts of the country without an adequate supply of wholesome water.

The wells in use are all shallow, often less than 20 ft. in depth, and the supply is largely surface water capable of easy contamination, a circumstance proved by the invariably unsatisfactory results obtained from the sampling of these waters immediately after heavy rains. The waters are regularly examined and my approach to the problem has been to direct energies firstly to those cases where the worst results occur repeatedly.

Attention is at present directed on five of the houses at Prey Heath, and success would of course lead to a reduction of more than 20 per cent in houses still supplied by wells. Cowshott Common will eventually come under review for this purpose. One of the practical problems is that in many instances houses of this character are owner/occupied by elderly people who plead financial inability to meet the cost of the work involved and, indeed, express no wish for improved supplies.

SCHOOL SANITATION

Inspections have recently been carried out of all schools within the Council's area and attention has been given to the inadequacy or otherwise of the available sanitary accommodation. Although the inspections have been made under the provisions of the Public Health Act, the standard of sanitary accommodation required has been that laid down under the "Standards for School Premises Regulations, 1951."

In the case of three privately owned schools the accommodation provided was in my opinion wholly inadequate.

CLEANSING SERVICES

These have been the subject of a separate and detailed report, thus a brief review will suffice on this occasion.

Towards the close of the year refuse was being collected from 13,600 premises on a basis of 830,000 visits annually for the purpose of collecting approximately 15,750 tons of refuse. In itself this is a substantial task but made more difficult by the number of uncompleted new housing estates.

Controlled tipping continues to provide a satisfactory and economical form of refuse disposal and a number of sites are continually in use. Land reclaimed since the war is already being utilised for the growing of crops.

Despite unsatisfactory circumstances the Council maintained a wastepaper collection service from trade premises; although kept at a minimum level the amount of paper collected was slightly in excess of the saleable quantity.

During the year 25,045 miles were covered in dealing with the removal of 4,833 loads of sewage. Cesspool drainage continues to be a problem of magnitude for which there is only one satisfactory solution—main drainage.